

*National Wild Life Day*

not so much interested in the number of spots on a woodpecker's tail as in saving the species from extermination. He was more than a naturalist; he was also a conservationist, and if there is one lesson the Canadian people must of necessity learn it is more and more the policy of conservation.

I come from a section of the country where there is the finest treasure house known not only in Canada but also throughout the world. But we are doing the same as the pioneer civilization did in old upper and lower Canada; we are wasting to a great extent the natural resources and its wild life; we are wasting some of the wonderful gifts that have been given by a bountiful Providence, and in Jack Miner there is an example to be followed by every section of Canada.

I make this statement deliberately. I repeat that the presentation of this bill was properly timed, but at the same time a lesson must be understood by every Canadian citizen. In my own section we have slaughtered the wild fowl there; we have slaughtered our fur animals; we have slaughtered our fine game animals. We are going farther than that; we are polluting those big streams that are carrying their water into the great basin of the Hudson and James bays. Many of these big rivers like the Temiskaming, the Missanabi and the Abitibi, just to name a few that carry millions of gallons of water each hour, and to-day they are polluted. Where we had an enormous quantity of fine fish life there is practically no such life at present. The Canadian people must see that that water is again purified, is again returned to its natural state, so that the fish life can be restored once more as it was forty and fifty years ago, for the glory of God, and the welfare of our section and of our Canadian people.

I have seen the same thing happen with our wild life. It is true that neither the deer nor the moose were as plentiful as the bison were on the western prairies and through the central states of United States. But we had them there by the thousands. These fine wild animals of our Canadian forests are decreasing too rapidly, and something must be done through education primarily, so as to preserve them from destruction. It is almost impossible to have conservation and all the things that Jack Miner stood for purely by legal statute. It must come primarily from the men and women of this country; it must be in their hearts in their actions if we want to preserve our wild life and our natural resources.

[Mr. Bradette.]

I may be out of order, but I should like to say a few words as to what we are doing at the present time to our natural forest resources in northern Ontario. We are doing exactly as was done in old Quebec and in the older sections of Ontario and the maritime provinces. How many people from this country and outside Canada after traversing every section of our country, and more particularly the four older provinces, are puzzled as to why some land was ever opened to cultivation, why it was allowed to be completely denuded of the great trees covering the land in those days, those great sylvan temples, where nature bloomed in its full glory. I well remember a place, for instance, like Sturgeon Falls, thirty-five years ago, when it was stated at the time of the inauguration of a fine big newsprint mill that there were enough forest resources in that area to enable the mill to function for at least two thousand years; yet after thirty years of that industry which meant so much to that section of the country it had to close its doors. Why? Because there had practically been wasted or extravagantly exploited most of the fine forest which had been given to people who were absolutely entitled to its exploitation but not to its destruction. I hope that governments, whatever they happen to be, whether at Queen's park or Ottawa or in any of the provinces, will realize what is involved in this unlimited, radical and unwarranted denuding of our forest reserves. I can speak with knowledge of my own section of the country. When, in 1909, I squatted on my lot the district was entirely forest; to-day, in very many sections, most of the farmers have to buy coal to supply their fuel requirements, the forest having entirely disappeared. There again something was wrong; there was not enough of this spirit of Jack Miner, the spirit of conservation and of preservation.

I wish to be brief in my remarks because I know that the hon. member for Essex West (Mr. Brown) desires to say a few words about this important matter.

Mr. MARTIN: All hon. members do.

Mr. BRADETTE: Yes, all hon. members, because they are so vitally interested. Jack Miner did not belong to any particular section of Canada. To-day Jack Miner belongs to every section of this country; yes, every section of the world. The hon. member who presented this bill spoke eloquently upon what our American cousins are doing at the present time in providing these sanctuaries which allow wild fowl to winter there. At the same time we must realize we have fine areas in the northern country where it is impossible for the